GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:506
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
ABOLITION OF CUSTOM DUTY ON CYCLOSPORINE
KAMAL NATH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether hundreds of kidney patients are finding it extremely difficult to pay exorbitant price for Cyclosporine, the life saving drug because of imposition of 40 per cent custom duty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Finance have informed as under:- The aggregated duty including surcharge etc on Cyclosporine comes to 40.54%. Prior to the budget 2000, Cyclosporine was fully exempted from custom duty. Thereafter, on the initial recommendations of Deptt. of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and due to coming up of indigenous manufacturing capacity, full exemption available to Cyclosporine was withdrawn during the budget.

However, there has been no increase in the prices of Cyclosporine medicine, except for 100 mg dosage manufactured by M/s Cipla after the imposition of customs duty with effect from 1.3.2000.

The Ministry of Finance have received a number of representations from kidney patients for withdrawal of custom duty on Cyclosporine.

The matter is receiving the attention of Ministry of Finance who are the nodal Ministry for imposition/exemption of custom duty.In the light of the representation received the matter is being reexamined by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals.The Ministry of Finance has already given assurances on the subject both in Lok Sabha (short notice question No.2 dated 25.8.2000) and in Rajya Sabha (USQ No.1795 dated 8.8.2000).